



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

20 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope you are well and that you and your son/daughter are looking forward to some sort of summer break. This is the final letter that I will be issuing during this academic year- you will likely be glad to hear that! It has been wonderful to welcome so many of our Y10 and Y12 students to school in the last four weeks. I have been very impressed with their attitude, their work rate and their general acceptance of the fact that school is not quite the place that it usually is. School has been a much better place for having at least some of the students here.

This leads me to talk about September. Many of you may have many questions. I will publish on our school website an externally validated reopening plan alongside a full risk assessment outlining in detail what we are doing to try and ensure the health and safety of everyone at the start of the new year. Please do be assured the health and safety of everyone has been and will remain paramount in everything that we do.

Essentially, school will re-open as follows:

- Wednesday 2nd September – Y7 and Y12 only
- Thursday 3rd September – Y8, Y9 and Y10 only
- Friday 4th September – Y11 and Y13 only

This will allow us time on those days to go through very carefully with all year groups how school will operate, how the timetable will function and how important it will be to follow a new, strict set of guidelines and routines which will be vital to ensure school remains open safely to everyone moving forward. School will then be open to all year groups as from Monday, September 7th.

The published plan will have the fine detail but there are a few key messages to digest at this time in anticipation for September:

- The DFE guidance and in particular their '[system of controls](#)' are central to how we plan to structure the school day and the school site.
- If your son/daughter is displaying symptoms of coronavirus or someone at home is, they should not attend school. A test should be arranged as soon as possible via NHS 111 and school made aware of the results.
- School will be open from 8.30am, students will not have access to the site before that time.

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- Attendance at school will be expected for all students except where someone is deemed to be 'extremely clinically vulnerable' and following a risk assessed process, it's deemed better for the child to work from home.
- We will operate in a series of 'zones' where a year group will be taught, for all of their lessons, in a particular area. They will also have an outdoor space assigned to their year group in their zone for use at break and lunchtime.
- All students in Years 7-11 are expected to be in full school uniform as normal.
- Everyone's co-operation and good behaviour will be absolutely essential and more important than ever before. I expect students to do everything they can to respect the rules around distancing, hand sanitising and remaining in their part of the school. Our behaviour policy has been updated and is on our school website. Respect and tolerance of each other will be expected from everyone at all times.
- Students will not be able to socialise with students outside of their zone- essentially, their year group until the guidance changes.
- A small range of snacks will be available in the zones at break time and a reduced offering will be available at lunchtime, again in the zones. This will mostly take the form of 'grab-a-bag'- a sandwich, drink and piece of fruit or cookie. Students are welcome to bring their own packed lunch if they prefer.
- During this period and until the guidance changes, it will not be possible to allocate lockers.
- The concept of 'Range Ready' will be more important than ever before. A school bag with the correct equipment and books for that day's learning will be crucial- please encourage your child to be pro-active in organising themselves in order to really help get their education back on track. Mr Dolly will issue further guidance on this.
- We are currently in discussion with Sefton and Merseytravel about the school bus service. They are trying to secure additional services but this is not at all guaranteed. We will be in touch when this is finalised but it may be that the school bus service is only available to Y7 and Y8 students in the first instance. This may be the only way with one bus that we can ensure that students are kept within their 'zone' when travelling. This is not a Range High rule but how the guidelines currently stand.
- 'Zones' will be dismissed at the end of the day in a slightly staggered way to ensure that the whole school is not leaving at the same time. Further details will be published nearer the time but this will not commence until at least 3pm each day.
- Most extra-curricular activities will be suspended for the early part of the term.

Apologies if this all sounds quite draconian and 'rule' focused but it is all essential if we are to be able to remain open and to welcome our students back in a way that ensures we are all as safe as possible. Your co-operation with all of this is very much appreciated. Like all

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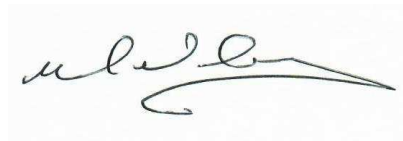
schools, we will monitor all of this on a daily and weekly basis. If all goes to plan, we will be able to ease the measures one by one and hopefully return the school to normality sooner rather than later.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone in the school community for their support, words of encouragement and goodwill messages as we have all tried to live under a different regime of rules and regulations. Thank you to the staff, all of them, who have tried very hard to educate our students in a very different way. Thank you to all of you, our parents and carers. You have had to embrace a huge amount of change and I know so many of you have worked very closely with your children to encourage and to support them to do their very best with the work they have been set. Thank you to our trustees, who have met many times to discuss plans and strategies and to remain focused on many of the core functions to keep the school running. Thank you to all of our young people. Again, I am amazed at their talents, skills, determination and resilience. They have been a credit to themselves and to you, their families. Again, many of their latest exploits will appear in the final edition of the newsletter which will be published at the end of term. My last word of thanks goes to the senior team here at school. Without their input and hard work, it would have been impossible to run the school at all during the lockdown period much less have it all ready for everyone returning in September.

We are looking forward to the new academic year, no doubt there will be hurdles along the way but as always, by everyone supporting each other and working together we will quickly get our young people's education back to normality. As always, if you have any questions, please get in touch.

I wish the whole school community a relaxing and restorative summer break whatever you may be doing.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. McGarry', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr McGarry
Headteacher